The Centaurian Sentinel 5

Via SolarCom | BABYLON 5 EDITION | 3 Commercial Credits

A VISIT WITH THE CREATORS OF THE B5 COMIC

The Centaurian Sentinel recently had the opportunity to visit DC Comics in New York City and speak with Laura Hitchcock, the editor of their BABYLON 5 comic.

CS: When I had found out that the BABYLON 5 comic was being done by DC I was thrilled, as I'm sure many other B5 fans were. When you started this title was it something that J. Michael Straczynski came to you with, or was it a project that you had approached him with?

LH: Various freelancers had been in favor of the project and had been pushing DC to do it, urging them to do it. I have to admit that I didn't know very much about B5 at that stage. I think one reason DC decided to go ahead with it was because of the relationship between Warner Bros and DC Comics.

Laura Hitchcock, editor of DC Comics' BABYLON 5 title, and artwork by John Ridgway.

CS: Joe started the first issue with his story. Did he give you a direction on how that story arc would end, or were your writers responsible for its conclusion?

LH: Well, when we decided to do this we had no idea that Joe would write the first issue. I went to talk to them, I think it was a little bit over a year ago. I chatted with Joe, saw the set, I met Harlan Ellison, I met with John Copeland. I met some of the actors, I saw the make-up. It was really a lot of fun. We had thought that the second season was going to start in January 1995, like the first season did in the beginning of 1994. They pushed the beginning of the second season up to October. We had to quickly run around to start the comic so it coincided with the second season. We weren't quite sure what to do when we had learned various things about how the TV continuity was going to change. I ended-up speaking to Joe about it. Joe, who is a very big comic book fan, got excited and decided that he wanted to do the first issue . . . I was not going to argue about that! So, the story came in and he told us a little about what he had in mind for the second season. I was able to bring in another writer who was able to take some of those ideas and suggestions, and flesh them out, and finish off the story in next three issues.

CS: How much does Joe help you out now? Is it something where you just write the story and he reviews it?

LH: Well, there is so much continuity involved. Usually I have been trying to get my writers to come up with real basic plots, maybe a half page. Then we send them off to Joe, and he gives us a yea or nay, and gives us suggestions at the same time about where the writers might want to take it and go with the stories. Joe has also given us a number of suggestions about off-shoot stories which he thought were important to be told – ones he knew fans wanted to know about – things we would never know about just from watching the show.

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CS: That's one of the points a lot of fans make about your stories. The comic goes beyond the television episodes and gets involved with the Grey Council and President Santiago's assassination.

LH: Some of that does come from Joe, although not all. He does have an overall plan. And he has ideas about these off-shoot stories, although he hasn't developed them completely. He gives us ideas of stories he has thought about, and we take it from there. For example, issues #5-8 are about how Garibaldi and Sinclair first met. We all knew a little-bit about that story – but Joe explained his ideas and the writer was able to expand on them. Joe's not giving us the whole story, but he is giving us some basic plot, at least, so far.

CS: As far as your writers go, are they B5 fans?

LH: Tim DeHaas is definitely a B5 fan. He's also a *Star Trek* fan, and has sold stories to the TV shows. Mark Moretti was not a B5 fan originally. I knew, however that he liked science fiction. He's also written other well-known comics. I knew him previously, and I knew that he liked this kind of writing, so I brought him in. He is incredibly meticulous and he watched all the tapes carefully. Now he's totally won over – and may come back to write something later.

CS: It was a cram course.

LH: Yes, it was a cram course, as it was for me, too. I like science fiction, but I wasn't following the show when it first came out. And there are many stories and levels to B5, so it takes awhile to get up to speed! That's why I prefer to hire creative people who are also fans – they really care about the details.

CS: And there are a lot of fans out there who would like to write B5 stories. What type of reference material do you get from Joe for the characters?

LH: Its not just Joe, first of all, who I'm dealing with. I'm also dealing with Warner Bros and other people on the show. Joe has been wonderful in knocking down barriers and helping me reach who I need to reach. For example, my artists need a lot of photo reference. I explained to Warner Bros what we needed for our artists, they showed me pages of contact sheets, and said, "Tell us which one you want and we'll see if it's okay to give it to you." That wasn't what I needed at all. I needed the whole contact sheet. It took awhile to explain what we needed to make comics, so it was a good idea that Joe and his partners helped me meet the right people and straighten out all the little problems.

CS: I was wondering if model sheets have been created for your artists since these characters are fairly new. They are not like Superman and Batman, characters that people start drawing when they are in

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An Important Message About Big Bang p. 2

BABYLON 5 SUPPORT WITHDRAWN FROM "BIG BANG"

A convention that had the potential of turning into the BABYLON 5 event of the year has left many B5 fans with major disappointment. The Chicago Sci-Fi Expo (see Data File #7), which will take place June 23-25 in Villa Park, IL, will no longer have BABYLON 5 personalities on their guest list.

The decision which caused Warner Bros to withdraw all support from this event was due to problems that they had with Convention Management Corp., who are the people that are in charge of organizing the Big Bang event.

B5 fans who were planning to attend this convention primarily to see B5 personalities might want to secure a refund. All other non-B5 guests are still scheduled to appear. Convention Management Corp. can be contacted at 673 Circle Drive, Roselle, IL 60172; 708/529-7318.

There is no reason to give up hope on a gathering of B5 fans and personalities – it will eventually be coordinated at another place and time.

"Project Starfury," which was to be unveiled at the Big Bang, will not be affected by this. Project Starfury's goal was to have a scale model of a starfury displayed at the convention. Eventually a starfury flight simulator would be developed.

The Centaurian Sentinel will keep you informed on the progress of Project Starfury and all other B5 gatherings. ★

COMICS DESTINED FOR CHARITY ARE STOLEN

BABYLON 5 fans have come to realize that Michael O'Hare is an extremely generous person. In order to help Hale House (an AIDs hospital for children in New York City) he autograph 32 issues of the first BABYLON 5 comic book, which were to be sold by *The Friends of Michael O'Hare Association* at a Vulkon convention in St. Petersburg, FL. Unfortunately someone neatly opened the package on the way to its destination and emptied it of its contents.

Friends is asking for help in the recovery of these missing comics. They are not interested in prosecuting anyone and are just interested in getting the profits from the sale of the comics to the hospital. If anyone comes across the comics contact: *The Friends of Michael O'Hare Association,* P.O. Box 6541, Edgemere, MD 21219. ★

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS WITH BABYLON 5 PERSONNEL

Be aware that guest changes may occur due to last minute problems. ★

Con-Troll 3, April 21-23, Houston, TX, Ramada Northwest Freeway. Jerry Doyle will be the Media Guest of Honor. Call 713/895-9202 or write, with SASE, to: Con-Troll, P.O. Box 740969-1025, Houston, TX 77274.

Babcom '95, April 29-30, Birmingham, England, National Exhibition Centre, featuring J. Michael Straczynski, Claudia Christian, Peter Jurasik. Send SASE or international reply coupon to Stargazer Productions International, 22 Reindeer Court, Worcester WR1 2DS, England. Tel: 01905 613005; FAX 01905 613158; Information hotline: 0891 517037.

Iowa State University, spring 1995, Ames, IA. J. Michael Straczynski will be at a seminar to speak on technology in popular culture, and how science fiction affects today's technology. For more information: Theresa M. Benson, tmbenson@iastate.edu.

Sci-Fi Mega Show, May 27-28, Anaheim Convention Center, CA. B5 stars to appear: JMS (Sun.), Bill Mumy (Sat.), Claudia Christian (Sat.). Contact: Creation Entertainment, 411 N. Central Ave. #300, Glendale, CA 91203; 818/409-0960.

Big Bang Convention, June 23-25, Chicago IL. BABYLON 5 personalities **WILL NOT APPEAR** due to problems.

Magnum Opus Con, July 13-16, Callaway Gardens Resort in Pine Mountain, GA. Bruce Boxleitner and Patricia Tallman (telepath from the pilot) will be there. For more information: e-mail fredg@vnet.net.

Toronto Trek IX, August 4-6, Toronto, Canada. Everett Burrell (B5 special effects makeup designer) will be Tech Guest of Honor, Mira Furlan will be a guest. More guests to be announced. For more information: e-mail vonthorn@io.org or C.LYON@genie.geis.com, or mail Toronto Trek IX, Suite 0116, Box 187, 65 Front Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5J 3G2. Tel: 416/699-4666, FAX 416/699-5512.

Starquest '95, August 18-20, San Jose, CA. Featuring Michael O'Hare and Walter Koenig. For more information: Starquest 95, P.O. Box 56412, Hayward, CA 94545-6412. Include a SASE.

CopperCon 15, Sept. 8-10 , Days Inn, Pheonix, AZ. Larry DiTillio will be appearing. Contact: Coopercon 15, Box 82303, Pheonix, AZ 85071-2303; 602/973-2054.

WOLF 359 – The Gathering, September 15-18, Manchester, England. Guest of Honors will include J. Michael Straczynski, Michael O'Hare, and Mira Furlan. Contact: WOLF 359, 37 Branksome Road, Southend - on - Sea, Essez 552 4HG, England.

Rising Star 4, September 29-October 1, Glenvar, VA. Richard Biggs and Spice Williams is scheduled to appear. A *Star Trek*/BABYLON 5 Medical Conference is planned. Contact Rising Star Prod., 545 Howard Dr., Salem, VA 24153; 703/389-9400.

Farpoint '95, October 6-8, Hunt Valley, MD. Bruce Boxleitner **WILL NOT APPEAR** due to schedule changes.

ROBOCON 10, October 6-8, Grand Hotel, Anaheim, CA. Ardwright Chamberlain (also voice of Zor Prime and scriptwriter for the *Robotech* saga) will be the GOH at ROBOCO 10. Contact: ROBOCON 10, P.O. Box 3206 Anaheim, CA 92803.

LaGrange Con, October 27-29, Cleveland, OH. Bruce Boxleitner is scheduled to appear.

The Centaurian Sentinel

Data File No. 8

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The Centaurian Sentinel is a newsletter dedicated to J. Michael Straczynski's television series BABYLON 5, and a forum for all beings who appreciate Science Fiction. It is sanctioned by J. Michael Straczynski.

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Membership includes: 12 monthly newsletters; a membership card; a free listing in The Zocalo Exchange section (20 words or less). All members also have an opportunity to have their BABYLON 5 related artwork and articles (no stories please) published in ***The Centaurian Sentinel***. Annual dues are $12 for U.S. and Canadian memberships, and $24 for overseas memberships. Please make U.S. funds payable to Michael Zmuda. For newsletter information or for submissions contact: ***The Centaurian Sentinel***, c/o Michael Zmuda, 17 Orchard Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579-3040; m.zmuda.genie.geis.com Please include a SASE if you would like your material returned. "Nothing's the same anymore. . ." ★

BOSTON BASH '95

The Boston *Star Trek* Association met this year in Taunton, MA instead of Boston, in an effort to involve more people from the Rhode Island area. The Holiday Inn was a perfect convention site. Out in the middle of nowhere, you could fully concentrate on convention activities. After all, that's why I travelled to Taunton anyway – to meet people interested in Science Fiction, *Star Trek* and Michael O'Hare, not necessarily in that order.

Saturday found the hotel buzzing with activity. People who had not registered on Friday night waited to receive their packets and determine how to spend their day. Dealers were busy getting their tables ready and there was a fair assortment of items to be had. Merchandise ranged from pewter dungeon & dragon images to comic books, t-shirts and posters from *Star Trek*. Unfortunately, there were only a few BABYLON 5 items – a few photos of cast members and comic books.

The Friends of Michael O'Hare Association table opened at 9:30 with a wide variety of items for fans. There were five different photos, signed and unsigned, t-shirts and night shirts of "The One", a tote bag and raffle tickets for an autographed plaque and Big E-Con poster with signatures from all guest attendees. Connie, Debbie, Becky and Louise were busy putting up their new posters to let everyone know where the table was located. I especially liked the air brush banner Becky had done. It's gorgeous.

Michael O'Hare visited his old Harvard campus while in the area. Brian from the BSTA took Michael around to the football field where he once placed and other sites around Cambridge.

When Michael returned, he participated in the charity auction with Robin Curtis. There are a number of very interesting items on sale, including a Klingon battle ax made by someone in the area, B5 comic book posters, a poster by Bog Eggleton (who was also at the convention) and some very nice models. When everything was finished, They had raised $1500.

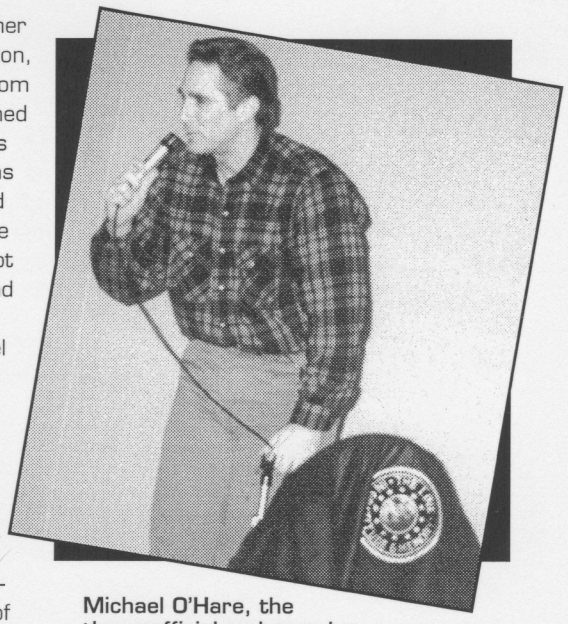
The auction was followed by Michael's talk. The room was full and everyone had questions for him about BABYLON 5, his return to the series, how he liked working with Bill Cosby on the *Cosby Mysteries*. After answering some of those, Michael asked if we would mind if he read us some poetry. He had brought a couple of books with him and wanted to break up the usual Q&A session a bit. Michael started off with "Hunchback in the Park" by Dylan Thomas. I've never seen a room get quiet so quickly, you could hear a pin drop. Since there were 200-250 folks in the room, I was impressed. Michael followed that with a couple of other pieces and then invited a little girl, Shannon, to come up on stage and read a letter from Anne Franke. Since Shannon hadn't learned to read yet, Michael whispered the words into her ear and she recited them – it was great. Everyone gave Shannon a big hand afterwards. She looked great in her GEnie shirt. (GEnie is an on-line service that a lot of folks at the convention subscribe to and participate in discussions with Joe Straczynski and others from B5.) Michael talked about the upcoming Chicago exposition in June and "Project Starfury." Project Starfury is an effort to make a quarter-scale version of an actual starfury. The organizers hope the effort will eventually lead to an real aircraft that could be used for ferrying material around the world. Louise Kleba was introduced to the audience; she is in charge of the project.

The hour went very quickly and was followed by an autograph session for both Michael and Robin Curtis. The line was enormous, but everyone waited patiently for their turn to have a photo, their badges, a comic book, magazine article, something, autographed. The usual one hour autograph session turned into two and one half hours. Both Robin and Michael had a lot of fun talking to everyone as they came through the line. It added to the time required for the session, but no one was disappointed. (I guess telling them not to talk with fans is like telling them not to breathe). I had never seen Robin before, but she seemed to thoroughly enjoy herself at the convention; this was her third BSTA adventure.

Later in the evening there was a banquet, costume contest and dance. The food was superb and the company couldn't have been better. I saw with fellow members of the *Friends of Michael O'Hare Association* and we had a ball.

At breakfast, we had a chance to briefly chat with Michael. We asked about his Mom and Dad, who we met in Norfolk at the Big E. Also got a good look at his wonderful jacket, a jacket given to him by Joe Straczynski in Chicago in February. The Battle of the Line patch on the back is awesome and I think Michael's favorite was the Starfury patch. He had a lot of fun with that one. He attributes it to John Copeland – wonderful but twisted sense of humor. The patch reads, "Starfury D-###, Ugly But Well Hung."

The Friends of Michael O'Hare Association had a meeting on Sunday morning. About 20 new members joined others that had travelled from Florida, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The discussion ranged from charities Michael would like to raise money for and his outlook on life. This was the second *Friends* meeting – the first one was in Norfolk, VA at the Big E-CON – and again the hour went too quickly. Michael tried to



Michael O'Hare, the the unofficial ambassador for B5, with his Battle of the Line jacket.

emphasize that he wanted *Friends* to get involved in the community, to use the Association for raising money and to reach out to others. One gentleman joined "Friends" the day before because he shared many of those views. He had never seen BABYLON 5 and didn't know Michael from Adam but the talk on Saturday had convinced him to join *Friends* and Michael in efforts to make the world a better place to live in.

Michael spent over two hours at the *Friends* table signing autographs for charity on Sunday. All proceeds from the sale of photos, t-shirts, night shirts, etc. had been designated for Hale House (a hospital in Harlem for AIDs children) and the House of Ruth (a home for battered women). Michael signed anything and everything. He had mentioned the night shirts in his talk on Saturday and they were very popular.

Michael's final talk of the convention was similar to the one given on Saturday, with a few exceptions. He recited a piece from Shakespeare, "A Few Good Men" (he was Col. Jessup in the Broadway production) and he sang "Danny Boy". Michael has a strong voice, as we all know, but he can sing too.

The last autograph session of the day was at 4:00; Michael had a plane to catch at 5:00. Needless to say, he missed the plane. Good thing it was the shuttle, since it runs every hour. Michael talked to everyone, took pictures with people and was just wonderful.

While I've given short shrift to the all the other activities at the convention, it's obvious that I went to Taunton only to see Michael and that I did. As I helped cover the *Friends* table with Connie, Debbie, Louise and Becky, I had a chance to talk with a lot of people. Most were concerned with Michael's departure from the show, but they were very interested in what *Friends* was doing and many either joined or took the membership applica-

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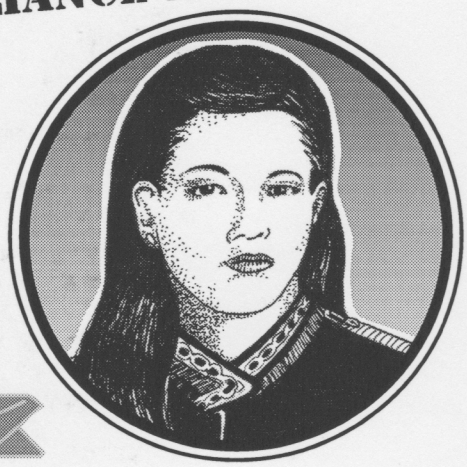
BABYLON 5 PERSONNEL FILE

FOR AUTHORIZED EARTH ALLIANCE MEMBERS ONLY!



Vice Commander Laurel Takashima

Profile: Vice Commander Laurel Takashima previously worked as security on Mars Colony after graduating from the academy.

Credentials: Vice Commander Laurel Takashima is played by Tamlyn Tomita. Her movie credits include "Come See the Paradise," "Orange Curtain," "Hawaiian Dream," "The Karate Kid II," and "Vietnam Texas."

Tomita has appeared in the television movies "Hiroshima: Out of the Ashes," "Raven" (pilot), and "To Heal a Nation." She has also been on television series such as "Santa Barbara," "Quantum Leap," "The Trials of Rosie O'Neil," and "Tour of Duty".

A FLASHBACK TO THE PILOT EPISODE - At command on the new Babylon 5 station (left to right): Vice Commander Laurel Takashima, Dr. Benjamin Kyle, Commander Jeffrey Sinclair, Chief of Security Michael Garibaldi.

"I was there at the Dawn of the Third Age of Mankind. It began in the Earth year 2257 with the founding of the last of the Babylon stations, located deep in neutral space.

It was a port of call for refugees, businessmen, smugglers, diplomats and travelers from a hundred worlds. It could be a dangerous place, but we accepted the risk because Babylon 5 was our last, best hope for peace.

Under the leadership of its final commander, Babylon 5 was a dream given form. A dream of a galaxy without war, where species from different worlds could live, side-by-side, in mutual respect. A dream that was endangered, as never before, by the arrival of one man, on a mission of destruction.

Babylon 5 was the last of the Babylon stations. This is its story . . ."

an aged Londo Mollari
pilot movie opening narration

Psi Corps Officer Lyta Alexander

Profile: Lyta Alexander is a licensed commercial telepath who is stationed on Babylon 5. She is a 6th generation telepath.

Credentials: Lyta Alexander is played by Patricia Tallman. Her movie credits include "Night of the Living Dead" (remake), "Army of Darkness," "Sweet Justice," "Knight Riders," "Monsignore," and "Roadhouse."

She has appeared in the television series "Generations," "Tales From the Darkside," "Miracles," "Guiding Light," and the "Star Trek" series.

Dr. Benjamin Kyle

Profile: The Chief of Staff of Babylon 5's medlab is Dr. Benjamin Kyle. Kyle is experienced in xenobiology and alien physiology.

Credentials: Dr. Benjamin Kyle is played by Johnny Sekka. He has been in movies such as "The Fever,", "Ashanti," "Southern Star," "Khartoum," "Woman of Straw," "Hanky Panky," and "A Warm December."

His television credits include "Roots, Second Generation," "Master of the Game," "Kingston Confidential," and "Passion in Paradise."

BABYLON 5 EPISODES

The Gathering (pilot movie, 2/93)

The year: 2257.
The place: Grid Epsilon Sector above the planet Euphrates.

Lyta Alexander arrives on Babylon 5 to act as the station's commercial telepath. As she boards she meets Commander Jeffrey Sinclair and asks him why the station is called Babylon 5. He replies, "Babylon 1, 2, and 3 were sabotaged and destroyed. Number 4 vanished without a trace 24 hours after it became operational."

Babylon 5 is awaiting the arrival of Kosh, the Vorlon ambassador. When he arrives all four major alien governments will be represented on Babylon 5, the other three are the Minbari, the Centauri, and the Narn.

Sinclair meets with Delenn in the Garden. Delenn gives Sinclair a data card containing information on the Vorlons – humans have practically no information on them.

Ambassador Kosh comes through the jumpgate two days early. The ambassadors now must be ready to greet him within two hours.

A small transport ship has attached itself to the side of the station and is piercing the station's hull to let it's passenger in.

G'Kar meets with Alexander. The Narns need the genetic make-up of telepaths, since they are unknown among Narns. G'Kar is asking Alexander for her to lend her services by donating genetic material to the Narns so they may create a clone replicant.

Sinclair heads to bay 9 and gets stuck in a transport tube. Kosh exits his ship in an encounter suit and enters the station. Sinclair meets up with Security Chief Michael Garibaldi and Lt. Commander Laurel Takashima. Kosh is found lying on the corridor floor. They rush him to the medlab and put him in an isolab. The Vorlons warn them not to enter Kosh's encounter suit for security reasons, even if it means that he will die. Dr. Benjamin Kyle is able to stabilize Kosh, but he must enter the suit to find out what is wrong with him. A bright light is emitted as the suit is opened.

Sinclair's love interest, Carolyn Sykes, arrives on the station.

Kyle analyzes data from Kosh, his life signs are dropping. Kyle reports to Sinclair that he was poisoned. He is puzzled as to how the poison was administered through the suit. Sinclair seals off the station to stop anyone who might have been involved in the attempt to assassinate Kosh from getting away.

In a conversation that G'Kar is having with Delenn about the assassination attempt he mentions her involvement with the Grey Council. He questions the reason why the Minbari spared the Earth Alliance just when they were about to conquer them. She warns him never to bring it up again, and changes G'Kar's gravity to an unbearable pressure through the assistance of a crystal ring.

Kyle cannot help Kosh. He suggests that Alexander scan Kosh to find out what happened. Alexander is worried that she may be thrown out of the Psi Corp for doing an unauthorized scan, she would also be going against the Vorlon's order to leave Kosh alone. She places her ungloved hands into the suit and visualizes Sinclair greeting Kosh as he exits his ship. Kosh extends a human-like hand that Sinclair places a skin tab on. Kosh passes out.

A maintenance pod that is investigating the loss of pressure from the station's hull is destroyed as it approaches the transport vessel.

A shady looking vharacter named Dal Varner secretly scans Alexander with some sort of instrument. He enters a transport tube with a man that recognizes him. As the doors close a shot can be heard. The doors open on another corridor and the man exits alone.

Sinclair meets with Kyle, Garibaldi and Takashima. Earth Central knows that a witness has pointed evidence of the assassination attempt at Sinclair. Takashima is ordered to take Sinclair's place on the Babylon 5 Advisory Council.

The Babylon 5 Advisory Council questions Kyle. He explains that Kosh was poisoned with flourazyne, but will not reveal who the witness to the assassination attempt is. G'Kar notes that before Sykes had arrived on the station she was in the Damocles sector where flourazyne is manufactured.

Sinclair is put on the stand, G'Kar motions that Sinclair should be sent to the Vorlon Homeworld to be tried. Takashima votes against the decision, Delenn abstains, and Londo votes with G'Kar. Sinclair is to be deported.

Garibaldi finds out that Varner is a tech-runner. A question arises as to why Varner is on the station since he would risk being brought up on three charges of tech running. Garibaldi goes to question Varner and finds him dead in his quarters.

Alexander has a secret meeting with G'Kar.

Londo had voted with G'Kar because G'Kar knew of atrocities that Londo's grandfather had committed against the Narns on a planet that was under Centauri rule. It would be bad if word got out.

Sinclair discusses the Battle of the Line with Sykes. He does not remember anything after he had attempted to kamikaze into a Minbari cruiser.

Alexander visits Kyle. Kyle has administered a counteragent to Kosh which seems to be working. After performing an autopsy on Varner he figures that the time of his death should have been hours before he was spotted in the casino. Alexander starts changing the controls on the isolab. The real Alexander and Sinclair enter the medlab just as this is happening. The double runs out before she can serious hurt Kosh.

Garibaldi shows Sinclair the remains of the transport which was in the process of burning through the hull. A repair team had managed to disable it.

Varner's code to his computer is cracked and Takashima is able to access information. His last job took him to the Antares sector in search of a changeling net. Changeling nets, which are the ultimate in holographic camouflage, are illegal and can be fatal because of the exposure to the energy emitted. It is figured that the suspect is using a net. They try to trace the energy that is being emitted on the station from the net. The suspect is located and the sector is sealed off.

A Vorlon cruiser exits through a jumpgate, releasing many fighter ships. They demand that Sinclair is turned over to their Homeworld.

Sinclair and Garibaldi track down the suspect, who keeps changing its appearance. Garibaldi is hit. Sinclair follows the suspect and finally pushes it against a power grid. As sparks fly its form is stabilized . . . he is a Minbari. He tells Sinclair, "There is a hole in your mind," and then sets a detonator that has been rigged to himself. Sinclair runs to safety as the Minbari explodes. The damage to the station is contained.

Sinclair see Sykes off, she asks him to leave with her.

He goes with Takashima to the medlab. Kosh is out of danger. Delenn enters and asks to speak with Sinclair. She apologizes to him and tells him about the rogue Minbari.

Sinclair calls G'Kar to toast the fully operational station. He tells G'Kar that the assassin was of the Minbari warrior caste that had split from them after the Earth/Minbari War. He wanted to disrupt Babylon 5 and its mutual goal of peace. Sinclair alleges that Varner was to bring the changeling net to the Narns who were to get the assassin on board. Varner did not meet up with Narn transport ship in time so they had to sneak the Minbari on the ship using the transport vessel.

Sinclair tells G'Kar that he just swallowed a transmitter with his drink and warns him that if he ever endangers the station again he will be found. Later Sinclair tells Garibaldi that there was no transmitter in the drink – G'Kar will suffer tests to find this out.

At the reception Kosh is welcomed as a member of the Council.

Sinclair discusses with Delenn what the Minbari said about the hole in his mind, the missing 24 hour period. Delenn passes it off as a Minbari insult. She asks him why a Babylon 5 was built when the others were lost or destroyed. Sinclair explains with a poem by Tennyson that humans are stubborn – when something of value is destroyed humans keep rebuilding it until it stands . . . "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Laurel Takashima was played by Tamlyn Tomita, Benjamin Kyle by Johnny Sekka, Lyta Alexander by Patricia Tallman, Carolyn Sykes by Blair Brown, and Del Varner by John Fleck. "The Gathering" was written by J. Michael Straczynski and directed by Richard Compton.

BABYLON 5 – The Comic Book Series

Editors note: The incidents in this four-part story arc follows the episode "Chrysalis".

In Darkness, Find Me (#1, 1/95)

Writer: J. Michael Straczynski; penciller: Michael Netzer; inker: Rob Leigh

The date: January 6, 2259.
The place: Earthdome, Geneva.

Jeffrey Sinclair is waiting for word about why he has been recalled from Babylon 5. For two days he has done nothing but wait; wait for a call, a call that would him provide him with some information. His brief conversation with a senator here in Earthdome only confirmed some of his earlier suspicions. He wanted to pursue the President's assassination but the senator wanted to hear nothing about the "accident". He encouraged Sinclair not to continue in this line of thinking as well. Why am I here? It was a simple question, but no one was providing him with any answers.

As he waited, through the long days and even longer nights, Jeff relived the Battle of the Line, the last battle of the Earth-Minbari war. He was one of only 200 survivors – one of 20,000 pilots and 20,000 ships. In his dreams he would see his friends die trying to prevent the Minbari ships from entering Earth's territory. He didn't sleep much at night and he didn't sleep well when he did. Voices from the past would always invade his sleep, leaving him with even more questions about why he was here and why he had been spared.

"Commander, Commander Sinclair," the intercom broke the silence in his room. Although Jeff was in bed, he was awake. He was being summoned by President Clarke. As he hurriedly dressed, he wondered what the new President would have to say; perhaps he had the answer to his questions.

As he was ushered into the President's office, Jeff came to attention. "At ease, Commander," Clarke said. Jeff moved slightly but could not really get comfortable. "I guess you are wondering why I summoned you here. Turn around Commander, there is someone I think you should meet."

A shadowy figure appeared from behind Sinclair. "This is Ratheen of the Minbari Grey Council. He has something he would like to tell you." Ratheen began, "I believe you remember me, though not entirely." Jeff took a good look at the older Minbari and tried to remember – there was something familiar about him. It was something connected with his capture 10 years ago during the Battle of the Line. Though his memories were not complete, just brief snippets of what had transpired, Jeff recalled being taken on board a Minbari cruiser, being interrogated, tortured. Ratheen uses a triluminary on Sinclair to bring all the memories back. "We have come to take you home," Ratheen said. "What are you talking about?", Sinclair asked. Ratheen stood back and searched for the right words to explain not only his answer but why the Minbari had surrendered after the Battle of the Line. Ratheen explained that Sinclair was the first human they had examined first-hand and they that-found he had a Minbari soul. Every other Earth pilot they examined had a Minbari soul, or part of a Minbari soul. For years the Minbari had blamed Soul Hunters for the declining number of souls and thus, the declining Minbari race. Since no Minbari had killed another in thousands of years, the Grey Council surrendered and ended the war.

The Grey Council told the Earth government of their findings and both agreed to keep the information secret – it would not be taken well on either side. Earth officials gave permission for the Minbari to blank Sinclair's memory. Since they were on the verge of defeat, Earth officials were not about to object to this Minbari demand.

Sinclair sat in amazement and reflected on what he had just heard. Ratheen had left the room and Clarke offered Jeff the opportunity to resign his commission with full retirement benefits – it's the least they could do for him under the circumstances. "Or you can take on one of the most important assignments to date. You can accept the Minbari government's invitation to come to their world as ambassador," Clarke offered. "Why me?" Sinclair asked. "Maybe they are sorry for that they did to you, maybe they feel comfortable with you, maybe they need you. You know more about the Minbari than anyone else, Commander. We've heard about trouble between the Minbari religious caste and the military caste. It's possible that they need an experienced soldier to talk to. Your world needs you, Jeff, " Clarke said.

Sinclair departs the President's office and heads for his quarters. He has a lot of thinking to do before making the journey to Minbar. Jeff packs the few things he had brought with him to Earthdome and continues to replay the conversation with President Clarke. "What about Garibaldi, What about Babylon 5?" "I have word from Babylon 5 that Mr. Garibaldi will be fine and I have assigned a new CO to the station. I'm also giving Ivanova a field promotion to Commander. You have trained her well and she'll be fine. It's time for her to fly on her own,." Clarke said.

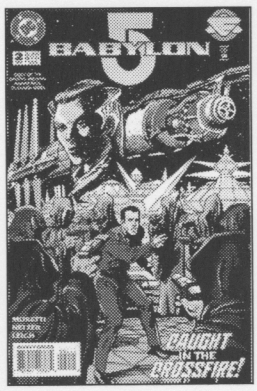
Jeff departs his quarters and heads toward the waiting shuttle. "Welcome aboard, Mr. Ambassador," the guard says. As the shuttle blasts off, and heads toward the Minbari homeworld, Sinclair, no longer dressed in an Earthforce military uniform, reflects on what he will say upon his first encounter with the Minbari Grey Council. He slips a small piece of paper from his pocket and reviews what had been written. "The Grey Council is ready to receive you now, Ambassador Sinclair." A cloaked assistant has entered the room to escort Sinclair to the chamber. "May I ask what you were reading?", he asked. "Words. A poem by someone who died a long time ago. Someone who believed in hope for the future, but also knew that the future is always difficult. I've carried it with me for years and it means a lot to me. I thought I would read it to the Council. It might help them to understand," Sinclair replied. "Perhaps you will let me read it sometime?" the escort said. "Of course," Sinclair said. With that they depart for the Council chambers.

Though we are not now that strength
which in old days moved Earth and
heaven, that which we are, we are.
One equal temper of heroic hearts, made
weak by time and fate, but strong in will.
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

Tennyson, *Ulysses*

Treason (#2, 2/95)

Writer: Mark Moretti; penciller: Michael Netzer; inker: Rob Leigh



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In the Babylon 5 docking bay, a shadowy figure in dock worker clothes, loads a small package onto a Minbari flyer that is to depart in three hours.

In C&C, Susan Ivanova receives a distress call from the starliner Chiyoda-Ku. The transmission is cut short as the person making the call is killed. Ivanova starts checking to see what she can find out about the Chiyoda-Ku. "It's times like this when I wish Garibaldi was back on duty," Ivanova remarks. She sends Zeta Squadron out to investigate.

Michael Garibaldi, still recovering from wounds, is in his quarters with Talia Winters, enjoying his second favorite thing in the universe . . . Duck Dodger cartoons.

They are interrupted by a call from Sinclair. Sinclair apologizes for not being able to say goodbye and asks Garibaldi to send his regards to Delenn. Sinclair is on his way to the installation ceremony of the new Minbari leader and is glad that Delenn is not attending. He says there is an undercurrent running through the Minbari castes – a tension between the religious and warrior castes. Garibaldi interrupts Jeff by saying that Delenn

has come out of her chrysalis and is indeed on her way to Minbar.

Warren Keffer and Zeta squad reach the Chiyoda-Ku, but find only dead bodies. Ivanova tells him to attach tow cables and bring the liner back to the station. The information she has been able to turn up on the liner is classified. She tells the C&C staff and Dr. Stephen Franklin to keep everything quiet, for now.

As the Chiyoda-Ku is checked out, they count twenty-five bodies on board.

There is one survivor and he is quickly taken to medlab for Dr. Franklin's immediate attention. There is, however, one person on the station that must make sure this person does not survive. Jason Colby puts on a security uniform and heads toward medlab. Colby waits for his chance to kill the survivor, but is hit by a powerful mental force. The survivor stumbles out of medlab and heads toward Talia's quarters.

Sinclair is in Yedor, the Minbari capital, looking out over the city. It reminds him of the crystal structure Delenn had in her quarters on Babylon 5. He is joined by Ambassador Delenn, whose appearance has changed very dramatically. Sinclair can't help but stare in shock, Delenn is beautiful. Delenn explains that she had reached a point when she could go no further as she was. "I cannot explain more yet. I am the first of my kind ever. I am now only half-Minbari. I am also half-human," Delenn said.

Back on Babylon 5, the search continues for the missing patient. Since he is armed, caution is taken by everyone involved. Talia calls Ivanova and tells her that the man she is searching for is in her quarters. As Ivanova and her men enter Talia's quarters, they find that Dexter Hall is a psi-cop and he did not kill the guard. He has been working undercover, infiltrating a pro-Earth group who blame President Santiago's death on alien groups. He found out that the group was supplying weapons for an assassination of the new Minbari leader.

The peaceful surroundings in which Delenn and Sinclair continue to talk is shattered as two guards from the military caste barge into the room. They search Sinclair's belongings that have just arrived from Babylon 5 and discover an Earth-made rifle, along with maps of the new leader's coronation route. Sinclair is placed under arrest for conspiring to assassinate the new leader. "When you are convicted, be assured that we will declare war against Earth for your treason. Take him!" the guard orders.

➢*To be continued next month (issues #3&4)*

Sandra Bruckner

BOSTON *continued from page 3*

tion with them.

Since I had my ***Sentinel*** badge on, quite a few folks asked me about the newsletter and I just happened to have some subscription forms handy. I spent a lot of time looking at name tags, finding people I had talked to online either about the the convention or about show. This is an ever-growing community and one that I find thoroughly enjoyable. Steve, John, Cecilia, Ira, it was great meeting you.

Needless to say, I loved the convention – it had all the elements you desire in a weekend — friends, fun and delightful entertainment. Every time I meet Michael O'Hare I am more impressed. He truly has his feet firmly planted on the ground and is willing to stand up for what he believes in. His loyalty to B5 and Joe Straczynski was voiced several times in his talks and he encouraged his fans to support Bruce Boxleitner and to write their local TV stations to assure that B5 would be renewed for the coming season. I think Michael and I share a number of ideals and it is very obvious that friendships are something we both treasure. I made some new friends in Boston, renewed some from Norfolk and hope to make more as we look toward future conventions. ✯

Sandra Bruckner

B5 COMIC *continued from page 1*

elementary school.

LH: True, that's another reason why I prefer to hire good artists who are fans, too. They know the characters. However, we are trying to do something a little bit different with B5. Because Joe is a big comic book fan he understands a bit more about the requirements of making a comic book. I am planning to use rotating team of artists, and each artist will have a slightly different interpretation of the characters. Joe is aware that we would like to have good likenesses if possible, but he is also aware that we want a stylish, interesting look to the comic book.

CS: It takes a while to develop.

LH: I think that the whole package is coming together. The creative people are getting more familiar with the characters. I think the colors are printing better.

CS: The colors are great. Is that Robbie Busch's style or did he intend to mimic the dark, shadowy lighting that exists on B5?

LH: Robbie was recommended to me, and I think his talents are perfect for the comic – they match the show. You may be interested to know that issue #5 and on will be on glossier paper, so the color should look even better. Unfortunately the price is going to go up slightly.

CS: You had mentioned Sinclair's involvement in future stories.

LH: Yes, issues #5-8 will be about how Garibaldi and Sinclair first met. It's going to be an interweaving of stories. Garibaldi and Keffer go on an adventure together and at the same time the adventure parallels the way that Garibaldi first met Sinclair. We are going to cut back and forth between the two stories.

CS: David Gerrold had mentioned that he had submitted a story.

LH: Right now I have him slated for issues #9 and 10.

CS: Will there be any other big writers involved with the series?

LH: Peter David will be involved sooner or later. I have been speaking to him on the phone and most likely it will work that Peter co-writes an arc with Bill Mumy, who plays Lennier on the show. But both of them are very, very busy right now so I have to fit in with their schedules. Peter has been writing for the TV show, and I've suggested that he write a story arc that meshes with one of his episodes. John Ostrander has also promised me a story. And of course David Gerrold, who's very excited about appearing in a comic book. He's been wonderful to work with and I think his issues will be terrific. It's also very likely that Joe Straczynski will come back to write a complete story arc.

CS: As far as the artists go, have they been involved in B5 from the beginning?

LH: Mike Netzer was not originally a B5 fan. He lives in Israel. I really liked the moodiness of his work, which is why I asked him to draw the comic. But B5 was not running in Israel at the time. I had to send him tapes and do a lot of coordinating with him. John Ridgway, the artist on issues #5-8, is from England – and he is a big B5 fan. He actually called me, asking if he could work on the book. He didn't even know I was planning to rotate artists. He's a terrific artist, as I think everyone will see. The likenesses are wonderful, incredible moody artwork. He wants to draw more issues as well. He's interested in all the ships, all the uniforms, all the continuity. In England, they seem to be about six episodes behind us, so he is always incredibly anxious to find out what has happened on American TV.

CS: At some point are you planning to include a letter section?

LH: Yes, that is something you should tell everybody. I started off printing informational articles in the issues . . . I think people see that section and think that there won't be a letter column, but there will be one, starting in issue #5.

CS: As far as submissions go, how should fans submit stories?

LH: If you are a writer who wants to work on B5, don't send proposals for more then one issue. And do send samples of your other work. If you are a beginning writer, I'd also like to see a full, complete, speculative script, just so I can see you can handle it.

CS: How about artists?

LH: Usually I like to see a couple of sample pages that include full figures, likenesses, ships, and action. Since one of the most important skills is story telling, try to make sure your pages tell a clear story. Never send originals and always include a SASE. And if I get too many submissions, I can't promise to respond to everyone personally. But I will look at everything!. ✯

Michael Zmuda

TRANSMISSIONS

You might be wondering why the pilot episode "The Gathering" has been summarized in this issue, in between the first season and the second season summaries. When the ***The Centaurian Sentinel*** was started it was sometime in the middle of last year – when BABYLON 5 was well into its first season. We figured that this would be the best time to slip the summary in . . . and since many new fans have questions regarding the origin of the arc this will act as an introduction.

The March issue of *Viewers for Quality Television, Inc.* listed B5 as #11 on its list of Highest Quality Shows, giving it a 7.80 quality rating (up from #16 at 7.30).

When J. Michael Straczynski was recently asked by an online fan to give viewers an idea of what to be prepared for in upcoming episodes he replied, "Oh, not much . . . accusations of murder against one of our characters, a whole new perspective on Earth and B5, betrayals by friends, a little conversation between Sheridan and Morden, sacrifices on top of sacrifices, the death of two billion people, a sudden development in the war, interrogations and several very large surprises."

He also had mentioned that the odds for renewal are still quite good at 70/30, with PTEN's decision to come in late April.

JMS and Claudia Christian recently were involved in *DC Comics Online Auditorium* on America Online. One fan had asked Joe, "What do you want?" JMS replied, "If the only answer is what do I personally want . . . the only thing I really want is to tell stories. It's all I've ever really wanted . . . Well, that and a nice cheese sandwich, a piece of fruit, and Carol Lynley . . ."

JMS was also involved with Bruce Boxleitner in *Omni Online's Auditorium* session on America Online. JMS was asked how the departure of Sinclair altered his intentions for the series. He replied, "Not at all. With the original commander, we could do a, b and c; now we can do a, b, c and D, and D is *very* cool. Also remember that his connection was mainly to the Minbari. I need someone with a connection to the shadows, and making Sinclair that person would be too much to believe, with all the rest."

The remaining episodes for the second season are #219 "The Long, Twilight Struggle," #220 "Divided Loyalties," #221 "Comes the Inquisitor," and #222 "The Fall of Night."

Lyta Alexander (played by Patricia Tallman), Babylon 5's resident telepath from the pilot "The Gathering," will be returning for an appearance before the second season is over.

Jerry Doyle and Andrea Thompson will marry in May.

Happy belated Birthday to Richard Biggs (March 18)! And a Happy Birthday to Michael O'Hare (May 6)!

The B5 Micro Machines by Galoob are on store shelves. The four sets of space ships are as follows: #1 - Babylon 5 Station, Vorlon Transport, Commercial Transport; #2 - Vorlon Cruiser, Narn Transport, Raider Ship; #3 - Centauri Transport, Minbari Cruiser, Starfury; #4 - Minbari Flyer, Narn Fighter, Babylon 5 Crew Shuttle.

The commercial release of the B5 CD soundtrack should be out this month. Sonic Images is accepting mail orders. The CD is $16.99, which includes p&h, California residents include 8.25% CA sales tax. Contact: Sonic Images Records, A Div. of Sonic Images Enterp., P.O. Box 691626, West Hollywood, CA 90069. ★ **Mykl**

GOLD CHANNEL

The BABYLON 5 series is a lot of fun, with its multi-level storylines. I feel that this show has not been properly promoted. Its may not have the Trek franchise budget and media-blitz, but it is still fun to watch. I would hope that at some future time in the story arc that Mr. Boxleitner's and Mr. O'Hare's characters can appear on-screen for at least an episode, or during the show's final big battle between the "light" and "shadow" forces.

A plus about BABYLON 5 is that the techno-babble is kept to a minimum. There haven't been any "holo-deck/transporter/computer malfunctions." The stories are more about the various characters and the coming battle between the two forces. We know that the station may be destroyed at some point. The fun is watching the build-up and how everyone on the show will figure it all out.

The key word is "fun" in enjoying sci-fi shows. I enjoy all the various sci-fi programs; both good and bad. I realize that it takes many people to put together these shows. After all, they film these shows in bits and pieces, out-of-sequence, and then edit it all together. We should not criticize them too harshly.

David Arndt, Stroudsburg, PA

Remember the series *Robin of Sherwood* – were you involved? When the fans of Michael Praed and the fans of Jason Connery got into such a scrap the whole fandom was wrapped up in bitterness? Do we really want that to happen with BABYLON 5?

I think not. Michael O'Hare was the star for the first season and pilot, and is a superb actor and a fine person. He should not be forgotten or pushed to one side, nor should his fans be treated as "silly" because they miss him as the lead and want him back. That is a very human way to react to your favorite actor being written out of a series.

Likewise, the fans of Michael should not attack the fans of Bruce Boxleitner. Bruce is a working actor, he was offered a good part and took it. He had nothing to do with Michael's departure and should not be blamed. Bruce is the star of BABYLON 5 for the second season and onwards – he is a good actor and we should respect him.

If we cannot accommodate the fans of Michael and those of Bruce within the fandom of BABYLON 5 – then how can we expect people to take us seriously!

Pat Jenkins, Shropshire, England

Being a converted Trekker, I remember writing off BABYLON 5 as a *Trek* wannabe. Now, after getting a boot firmly planted into the ground, B5 is leaving *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* in the dust. I use comparison as a measuring stick, because the shows have similar elements. B5 has become everything that DS9 should aspire to be. Sometimes I try to put the DS9 characters into their B5 counterparts' situations and it really goes to prove how confined the former is, both in character and in situation. DS9 would do well to throw their world into a little more chaos.

Though I didn't watch many first season episodes, I like Michael O'Hare and was a little surprised to hear that he had been dropped. However, I am very excited to have Bruce Boxleitner in command, he's going to be a very exciting character. I am also very glad that Commander Sinclair will still be present in the story (Michael O'Hare's cameo in "The Coming of Shadows" was a real treat!), his presence in the overall saga assured and I think he is sure to play a significant role in the final outcome.

Tom Bateman, Beaufort, SC

THE ZOCALO EXCHANGE

WANTED

Disgruntled Trekker Desperate To Catch-Up With B5 Universe. First season episodes needed to get up to speed. Tapes provided. Tom Bateman, P.O. Box 1980, Beaufort, SC 29901-1980

Missed "Babylon Squared!" If you can send VHS copy of this episode, please contact Mike Lombardi, 16002 Pond Meadow Lane,Bowie, MD 20716; 301/249-1224.

Looking for Tech Manuals on B5. Send information to: Thomas M. Harrison, P.O. Box 312, Easton, MA 02334.

PIRATED MERCHANDISE

Please note: ***The Centaurian Sentinel*** does not endorse the buying or selling of unlicensed BABYLON 5 material – this includes patches, pins, t-shirts, scripts, etc. The selling of taped episodes is also illegal. Please be careful when making purchases, merchandise should have proper copyright notices.